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EXCALIBUR



Braddock OF THE JUNGLE

YOU MIGHT WANT TO
GET FORWARD STRAIGHT
TO THE SURRENDER,
BUDDY.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE
WALKING AWAY FROM A FIGHT
WITH THE ALL-NEW, ALL DIFFERENT

EXCALIBUR

BLACK PANTHER,
WHO... OR WHAT
IS EXCALIBUR?

YOU
HAVE ME, IRON
MAN...

...I THOUGHT
THEY WERE WITH
YOU.

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...EVEN THE
DEATH OF MY
OWN PEOPLE?

YOU ARE
CORRECT,
MADAM!

AS YOU CAN SEE,
I HAVE ORDERED MY
MINDLESS MINIONS
TO TAKE AIM UPON
THEIR BRETHREN...

...FOR
ALTHOUGH YOU
"SUPER HEROES"
TEND TO BE BULLET-
PROOF...

...MY FOLLOWERS,
EVEN IN THEIR
ALTERED STATE,
ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS
INVULNERABLE!



READY WHEN
YOU ARE,
GANG...

NO, IRON MAN-- MY
COMRADES-- I CANNOT
RISK THE LIVES OF MY
SUBJECTS!

FOR THE MOMENT, THERE
IS NO OTHER WAY.

CAP-- ISN'T THERE
SOMETHING WE
CAN DO?

I'M AFRAID
NOT, SHARPGAT.
THE PANTHER IS
THE SOVEREIGN
LEADER OF
WAKANDA.

IF HE
WILL FULLY
ABDICATE HIS
THRONE--

--ANY ACTION ON OUR
PART COULD RESULT IN AN
ACT OF WAR!

IRON... I
SURRENDER.

AT LEAST BRIAN IS SAFE
BEHIND THAT INSTANT
SHELTER THE BLACK
PANTHER MADE! #

HITTY COULD HAVE USED
HER SHAPING POWER TO
FREE HIM LIKE SHE DID ME--

--BUT CAPTAIN
BRITAIN APPEARING IN
WAKANDA ON THE SAME DAY
AS BRIAN BRADDOCK'S BUSI-
NESS TRIP WOULD BE TOO
SUSPICIOUS.

"I...I HOPE HE'S
NOT TOO BORED
OR ANYTHING."

CAN'T TAKE
THE WAITING--

EEEEERRRYAAARRGH!

--GOT TO
BE A WAY--

... CAN HELP MEGGAN
AND THE OTHERS--

--IF I CAN
JUST GET OUT
OF HERE--

ODD THAT,
EVEN WITHOUT MY
SOSTHANE I DON'T HAVE
THE STRENGTH I NEED
TO FREE MYSELF.

MAYBE IF I
DIDN'T KEEP LOSING
MY BALANCE IN THIS
SOFT GROUND.

IN THIS...

...MUD?

HMMMM?

YEH--HMMMM?

HE
ENCOURAGED
ME TO USE MY
SHAPE-SHIFTING
POWER TO DISGUISE
MYSELF AS A NATIVE
AND HELP, BUT STILL--

LAST ISSUE
--T.H.

AT THAT MOMENT...

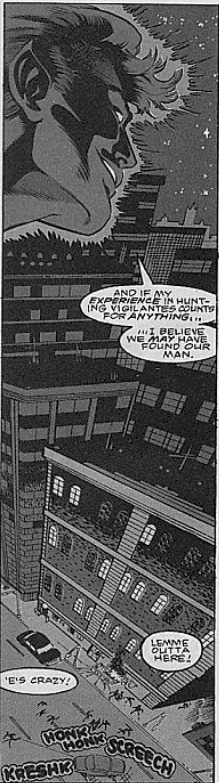
...SEVERAL THOUSAND-
ODD MILES NORTH...

I FEEL
I SHOULD
APOLOGIZE,
KURT.

MY STELLAR
SENSORS HAVE
BEEN UNABLE TO
TRACK OUR QUARRY--
THE ELDERLY MAN WHO
DISRUPTED THE
OPERA EARLIER
THIS EVENING.

YOUR
POWER OF
FLIGHT IS MORE
THAN HELPFUL,
CERISE.

IN LAST ISSUE... T.K.



AND IF MY
EXPERIENCE IN HUNT-
ING VIGILANTES COUNTS
FOR ANYTHING...

...I BELIEVE
WE MAY HAVE
FOUND OUR
MAN.

'E'S CRAZY!

LEMMIE
OUTTA
HERE!

HONK!
HONK!
SCREECH
KRAASH!

WITH A BURST
OF SMOKE AND
BRIMSTONE--

NIGHTCRAWLER'S MUTANT
ABILITY TO TELEPORT TAKES
BOTH MEMBERS OF EXCALIBUR...

...TO THIS LATEST DISTURBANCE
ON LONDON'S CITY STREETS.

YOU
THERE--WHAT IS
THE PROBLEM
INSIDE?

WOULD
YOU BELIEVE SOME
EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD KNIGHT
IN FULL BATTLE ARMOR?!

JUDGING FROM EVERYONE'S
REACTION--THIS MAN WE
ENCOUNTERED IS SOMETHING
OF A CHRONOLOGICAL
ANOMALY!

...HE IS NOT SO
MUCH A DISPLACED
TIME TRAVELER--

--AS HE IS A WELL-ARMED,
MODERN DAY OCTOGENARIAN
WITH DELUSIONS OF
GRANDEUR!

PLEASE
LET ME GO!

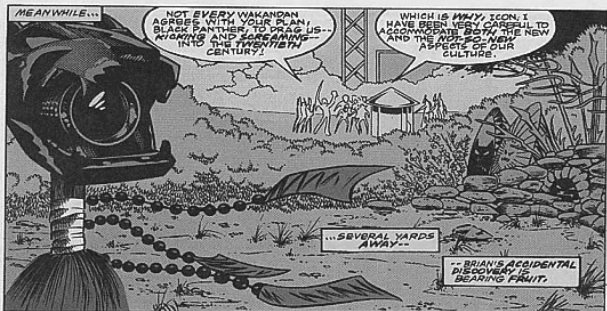
YOU MIGHT
SAY THAT.

BUT JUDGING FROM HIS
TECHNOLOGICAL ACCOU-
TEMENTS, I AM MORE
INCLINED TO BELIEVE...

WITH
PLEASURE,
GIRL!

AS SOON
AS YOU REVEAL
ALL--

--TO
THE KNIGHT
ERRANT!



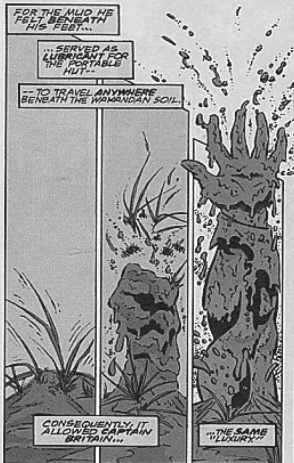
MEANWHILE...

NOT EVERY WAKANDAN
AGREES WITH YOUR PLAN,
BLACK PANTHER, TO DRAG US--
KICKING AND SCREAMING--
INTO THE TWENTIETH
CENTURY!

WHICH IS WHY, ICON, I
HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO
ACCOMMODATE BOTH THE NEW
AND THE NOT-SO-NEW
ASPECTS OF OUR
CULTURE.

...SEVERAL YARDS
AWAY...

-- BRIAN'S ACCIDENTAL
DISCOVERY IS
BEARING FRUIT.



FOR THE MUD HE
FELT BENEATH
HIS FEET...

... SERVED AS
LUBRICANT FOR
THE PORTABLE
HUT--

-- TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE
BENEATH THE WAKANDAN SOIL...

CONSEQUENTLY, IT
ALLOWED CAPTAIN
BRITAIN...

...THE SAME
"LUXURY"



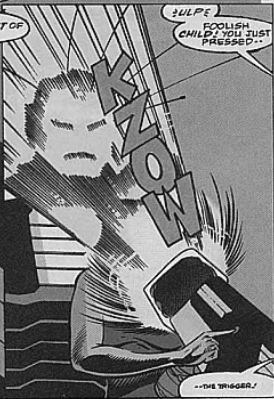
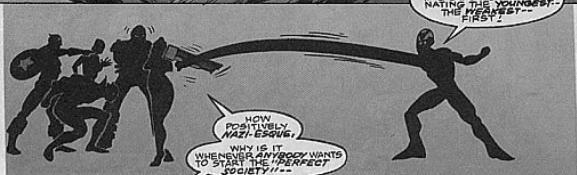
THOUGH, ADMITTEDLY, WITH
LESS CLEAN RESULTS,

PTH
PPTH
PHNTPH!

LOCKHEED...?

HMMM?

SHUT UP.







KIND SIR, A MOMENT
OF YOUR TIME?

A-NA!

"A-NA" Z

IT IS JUST
AS I SUSPECTED--
THIS DEEP OF INIGUITY IS
HOME TO BOTH BRIGAND
AND DEMON ALIKE!

BUT KNOW
YE THIS! NOW THAT I
HAVE FERRETTED OUT THE
TRUE NATURE OF THIS PLACE--



--NEITHER MAN NOR
BEAST SHALL STAY
MY HAND!

SWUMPING

MADAM...?



I HAVE YOU,
NIGHTCRAWLER!

MORE ACCURATELY,
MY ENERGY COSSON
WILL BREAK YOUR FALL.



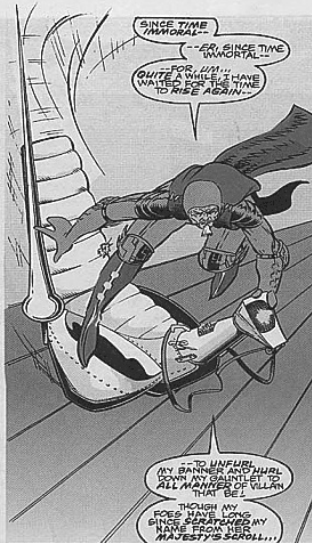
IF YOU SEEK TO IMPRESS
ME WITH YOUR TRIFLING
SPELLS-- YOU DO SO
IN VAIN!

LONG AGO, I
DEDICATED MY LIFE
TO THE SERVICE OF
SCIENCE--



--AND
AS YOU CAN
SEE...

...SHE HAS
YET TO ABANDON
ME!



SINCE TIME
IMMORTAL--

--ER, SINCE TIME
IMMORTAL--

--FOR, UM...
QUITE A WHILE... I HAVE
WAITED FOR THE TIME
TO RISE AGAIN--

--TO UNFURL
MY BANNER AND HURL
DOWN MY GAUNTLET TO
ALL MANNER OF VILLAIN
THAT BE!

THOUGH MY
FOES HAVE LONG
SINCE SCRATCHED MY
NAME FROM HER
MAJESTY'S SCROLL...



PAKT

THEY
DID NOT
RECKON WITH THE
ARSENAL AT MY
DISPOSAL!



NIGHTCRAWLER--
THAT LANCE?!

MY SENSORS
READ IT AS
PURE PSIONIC
ENERGY!

BWZP

SIR, YOU ARE
OBVIOUSLY A
BRILLIANT MAN
SUFFERING FROM
DELUSIONS OF--

DELUSIONS?!



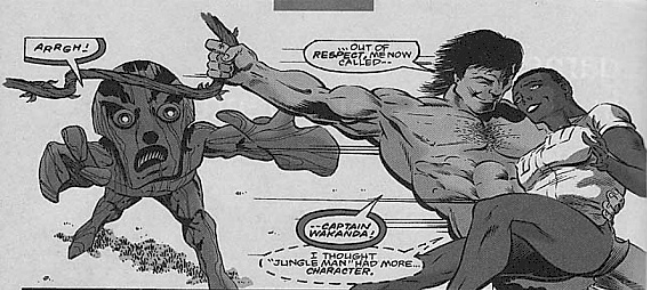
WMOA.

I TRUST BY YOUR COUNTENANCE
WE ARE ALL SHARING THE SAME
"DELUSION"?

I CAME HERE THIS
EVE IN SEARCH OF THAT
WHICH YOU SEE
BEFORE YOU!

8-CAN
IT BE--?





ARRGH!

...OUT OF
RESPECT, HE NOW
CALLED...

--CAPTAIN
WAKANDA!

I THOUGHT
("JUNGLE MAN" HAD MORE...
CHARACTER.



I HAVE HAD ENOUGH--
AND TIME IS RUNNING
SHORT!

I TRIED TO
OVERTHROW
THE COUNTRY
REASONABLY...

... WITH A
MINIMUM
OF BLOOD-
SHED AND
ECONOMIC
UNREST.

BUT
IT IS OBVIOUS MY
METHODS HAVE GONE
UNAPPRECIATED.



SO LET'S BE
DONE WITH
IT.

KILL THEM,
MY FAITHFUL
MINIONS!

OBLITERATE
THE ALL-NEW
"EXCALIBUR!"



LET'S BE CAREFUL, PEOPLE--
REMEMBER, THEY'RE NOT IN
CONTROL OF THEIR
FACULTIES.

ME...? I'M STILL UNCLEAR
ON THIS WHOLE "EXCALIBUR"
THING.

ISN'T THAT,
LIKE, A
SWORD?

AN
"ENGLISH" SWORD,
TO BOOT.



WHY... DO I
LOOK MAD?
YOU GET
YOUR HANDS ON A
DERANGED, WELL-
ARMED EIGHTY-YEAR-
OLD LUNATIC...

...AND
YOU
LET
HIM
GO?!



WHAT DO I
POSSIBLY
HAVE TO BE
MAD ABOUT?!

INSPECTOR THOMAS,
UNDERSTAND HIS
ANTICULATED SPEECH
PATTERNS AND
RATHER SKEWERED
PERSPECTIVE--

--HE DID HAVE
A VERY REAL GOAL TO
ACCOMPLISH THIS
EVENING.

SO YOU SAY!
HE STARTED THE NIGHT
AT THE OPERA, HARASSING
A SUSPECTED TERRORIST--

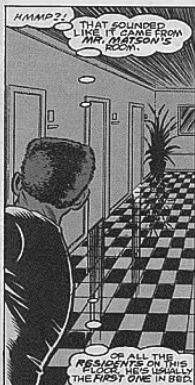
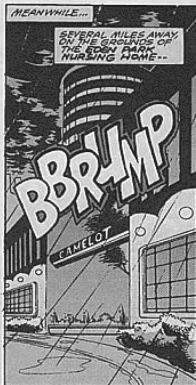


--AND YOU BELIEVE IT WAS
ONLY A COINCIDENCE HE "SPUNTBLED"
ONTO AN ARMED NUCLEAR WARHEAD
HIDDEN IN A PUB IN THE
CENTER OF LONDON?

IT WOULD
SEEM TO ME YOUR WORLD
WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN
ARMY OF SUCH MADMEN.

IF ANYONE GETS
HURT BECAUSE OF
"HOT FLAME
NIGHTCRAWLER"--

--IT'S GOING TO
BE YOUR BLUE-FURRED
MIDE HANGING FROM MY
OFFICE WINDOW!



HURRY, MY PEOPLE--
HURRY!

TIME IS OF THE
ESSENCE!

WE MUST BRADICATE OUR
ENEMIES BEFORE... BEFORE
THEY, UH... ERADICATE
US!

BRZKT

MAYBE IT'S THE EMPATH IN
ME-- BUT DOES ICON SEEM A
BIT DESPERATE?

IMPATIENT
AT THE VERY
LEAST.

SOMETHING'S
WRONG. EVEN MY
SUPER-STRENGTH
ISN'T WHAT IT
SHOULD BE.

I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO PUT "UNDER-
STANDING MY POWERS"
AT THE TOP OF MY
LIST WHEN--

ICON, YOU CLAIM YOU
WANT TO HELP YOUR
COUNTRYMEN--

PING

--IF--

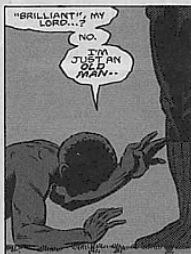
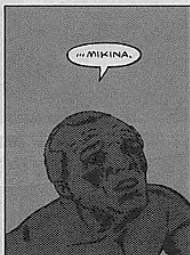
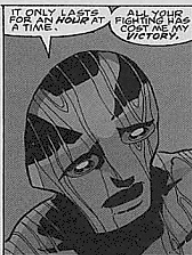
--WE GOT
BACK TO ENGLAND.

--YET HERE
YOU RISK THEIR LIVES
IN BATTLE!



IT CAN'T
END THIS WAY...
NOT NOW!

NOT AFTER
EVERYTHING I'VE
DONE...



DO NOT JUDGE HIM
TOO HARSHLY, MY
COMRADES.

DR. AIKURU
BLAMED HIMSELF
FOR NOT BEING ABLE
TO SAVE HIS ONLY
DAUGHTER.

HIMSELF AND
SCIENCE.

I SUPPOSE IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE
HE WOULD TURN HIS BACK...SEEK
REVENGE--ON THE MODERN
WORLD...

...A WORLD IN WHICH MUKUNA
DIED AS A RESULT OF
TOXIC WASTE POISONING
OUTSIDE WAKANDA.

WASN'T THAT THE ENTIRE
REASON YOU GUYS WERE
HERE TODAY?

TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE,
YES...

...THE VERY
REASON EACH AND EVERY
ONE OF US IS HERE...

...EVERY
DAY OF OUR
LIVES.

JOIN US NEXT ISSUE FOR THE
RETURN OF ALAN DAVIS,
MARK FARMER, AND THE
PHOENIX !!!

EXCALIBUR

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Let me start by saying that EXCALIBUR #55 was by far the best issue of this series to date. I loved everything about it. The "cover" was the best for the entire month, and I couldn't find a flaw with it anywhere. Alan Davis has truly outdone himself with his stories and if he ever leaves EXCALIBUR, it is going to take someone really great to make up for that loss.

I want to thank Mr. Davis for the first four pages (excluding the cover, mind you), because the reunion between Brian and Betsy was long overdue. I am happy that she was able to help Brian out with his dilemma, and I hope that this ends Brian's thinking that he is not suited for the leadership of Excalibur.

Pages six and eight was also very entertaining. I have openly admitted that Shadowcat and Nightcrawler are not my faves, but I liked the scene between them a great deal. Kurt is acting funny, I think, and I just hope that he isn't going to become the "bummer" type of hero that many of the characters have become for extended periods of time.

Kylyn's departure was shocking. I know that he'll be back real soon, but I would have liked to see the dude in every issue. I was happy to hear that Brian allowed Satanine to rest beside his parents. To lose a loved one is very tragic, and I am happy that Alan is allowing Kylyn to forget about his sadness at a normal pace.

Alysdane being court-martialed is quite a shock to my system. I just hope that she is cleared, even though she has been killed. To die with a stain on one's record is a fate worse than any I can think of. I hope that Excalibur learns who ruined her career and flattens the big dope.

The kissing scene was a riot. I loved the look on Meggan's face when she saw Courtney (Sat-yr-9) kissing Brian. The last panel on page fourteen was worth the price of admission alone. Cerise was hilarious, and I get the feeling that Kurt just might have a new love interest. Since Meggan is with Brian, let's see Kurt get it together with that otherworldly chick, Cerise.

"My good" is right, Kurt! Alysdane is dead! Dai and Emilia are down! Cerise, Alistair, and Kitty are all hurt or worse! Kurt and Meggan are shot! Brian and Betsy are prisoners of that madman, Jamiel! As far as cliffhangers go, this is the best I have ever seen in the pages of any comic book I have read in my life!

I did want to ask one thing: How about an annual sometime? I will leave you by saying how much I am loving the current status of Excalibur. Give my best to everyone and I wish you all the best of health.

Michael D. Krabbenhoft
22991 160th St.
Maquoketa, IA 52069-8716

A thoughtful letter, Michael. Thanks for taking the time to write! And, in response, we've decided to give you exactly what you want — look for EXCALIBUR ANNUAL #1 in the summer of '93!

Dear Sword Strokes,

EXCALIBUR #55 was great! Full of suspense, action and more suspense (just as the "cover" says!)

So, was that a real gun (you know, the kind that shoots lead bullets) that that weird dude used to nail Nightcrawler and Meggan? Are they alright? Where did Kitty go? What kind of power does Jamie have? Aaaaargggghhh!!! All these thoughts going through my head and I can't seem to get them on paper!

Okay, now that I've calmed down, I can say this. I love to read EXCALIBUR! The character that got me into the book was Nightcrawler. I first saw him in THE X-MEN and fell in love with the character. Kurt, next to Wolverine, is my favorite Marvel character.

I'm fifteen years old and I have but one friend who collects comics (and she's the one who got me into it), but she can't answer all of my questions. So:

1. Who is Amanda Setton?

3. Isn't Sat-yr-9 under the orders of Roma?

Also, I would like Eden to know that I have the same trouble with many of my friends. They think I'm weird because I collect comics.

So, until Kurt becomes a kill freak with a psychotic sidekick named Bagpipe Bowser, Make Mine Marvel!

Mika Shamoto
2135 Auka Ln.
Pearl City, HI 96762

Amanda Setton is an old girlfriend of Nightcrawler's, Mikal Daughter of a witch, she was last seen on Muir Island.

You're right about Sat-yr-9! At one time she did serve Roma as her enforcer, but being the evil villain we know her to be, she betrayed the guardian of the multiverse. For this crime, she was imprisoned, where she stayed until Widget opened up a dimensional portal that happened to lead into Sat-yr-9's cell. She killed the unlucky bloke who stepped through, went through the portal herself and located and killed Courtney Ross in order to take her place. Since then she has been playing the role of Courtney and running what used to be the Vixen's crime empire.

Got all that? Good luck!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Kurt has always been my favorite character. The swashbuckling rogue who has trouble with acceptance. It makes sense for him to flirt with every woman he can. I think Cerise will be a great new twist in his life. With her lack of "emotional bonds," Kurt should have a good time explaining this to Amanda. I'm looking forward to it.

Oh, I happen to be the oldest brother in the family, too. If your siblings get out of line you have to put them back in place. You had to work for the higher allowance and later bedtime. The little ones had it handed to them. So you pull strings of reality and fix things. I do it all the time. Yeah, that's the ticket. So what's the big deal about Jamie

coming back?

Matt Schrott
47 Manomet Rd.
Newton, MA 02159

We don't think we'd like to be one of your siblings, Matt!

Dear Terry and Mark,

Whenever people mention the mutant titles, they'll often say: "X-MEN, UNCANNY, X-FORCE and X-FACTOR." But will they ever say EXCALIBUR? This is perhaps the best book, yet only die-hard fans collect it. Honestly, EXCALIBUR should sell like X-MEN. Issue #55 was a prime example of what makes this title great.

Alan Davis is a superb writer and artist, and I find his renditions of the mutants absolutely breathtaking. In fact, I'd take his Psylocke over Jim Lee's any day. Alan's artwork is dynamic and has a style all its own: a style that has more in common with classic Golden Age artists than New Wave artists. Yet, as so many other readers are always pointing out, Alan's writing skills should not be overlooked. "The Ghost of Braddock Manor" was an excellent story, and started what should be quite an interesting storyline. All of his characters are well-defined, yet Alan seems to love taking them on roller-coaster rides.

Another part of the team that shouldn't be overlooked is the inker, Mark Farmer cranks out fine embellishment every month, and should also get a round of applause. Glynn Oliver and Michael Heisler also help make EXCALIBUR such a great book.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate you on cross-referencing MOTORMOUTH. Most of the other Marvel books are ignoring the events in the finely-crafted Marvel U.K. titles.

Mr. Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2165
Union, NJ 07083-2165

Thank you for your kind mention of the rest of EXCALIBUR's team, Joey! You were not the only reader who has mentioned the beautiful job Mark is doing over Alan's pencils. Sometimes with all the (well-deserved) praise heaped on Alan Davis, we all forget the other very capable people who help make this book shine every month!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I am absolutely stunned. I have just finished reading EXCALIBUR #55. Alysdane is dead, Kurt and Meggan are shot, Kitty seems badly hurt. Even Cerise, who just joined the team not more than eight issues ago, was not left untouched. I knew sooner or later you would tie up the story line about the Courtney Ross impostor, I just didn't think you would do it in such a brutal way! I can't wait until the next issue comes out to find out what will happen next!

Darchelle Skipwith
19304 E. Hurst St.
Covina, CA 91722

Hope we made it worth the wait, Darchelle!

WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE
TAKE ME FOR--AN
IDIOT?!

I AM A PRIMAL
FORCE OF NATURE...NOT
SOME DERANGED BIO-
CHEMIST WITH A PRO-
GRESSIVELY WORSENING
MENTAL CONDITION--

--EXACERBATED
BY EXPERIMENTS I
CONDUCTED UPON
MYSELF!

I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T
ACCOMMODATE YOU ON EITHER
COUNT, SON.

IT'S A MATTER OF
PRINCIPLES.

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS RIGHT--YOU
TRANSMUTED THESE NATIVES, STATES-
PEOPLE AND WAITRESSES WITH
A SINGLE TOUCH...

...NOW CALL
THEM OFF BEFORE ANYONE
GETS HURT.

ANYONE
OTHER THAN YOU,
THAT IS!

YEAH.

BRADDOCK OF THE JUNGLE

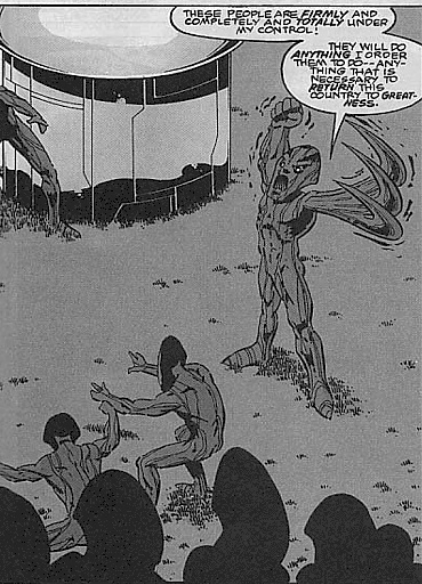
LOBDELL/KOLINS/HOLDREDGE/THOMAS/HIGGINS/KAVANAGH/DEFALCO
EXCALIBUR CREATED BY CLAREMONT & DAVIS

★ LAST ISSUE!
--T.K.



I AM ICON--THE FUTURE
LEADER OF THE NATION OF
WAKANDA. I DEMAND
YOUR RESPECT--

--THOUGH I'LL
SETTLE FOR YOUR SUB-
SERVENCE!



THESE PEOPLE ARE FIRMLY AND
COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY UNDER
MY CONTROL!

THEY WILL DO
ANYTHING I ORDER
THEM TO DO--ANY-
THING THAT IS
NECESSARY TO
RETURN THIS COUNTRY TO GREAT-
NESS.

I RECOGNIZE SHADOWCAT FROM
EXCALIBUR. AS THIS WOMAN IS
DRESSED THE SAME AS
BRADDOCK'S ASSISTANT--

--I'M GOING TO ASSUME
SHE'S THE GIRL'S SHAPE-
SHIFTING TEAMMATE
CALLED MEGGAN.



CAPTAIN
AMERICA SIR--
LOOK!

ICON
WON'T STOP AT
ANYTHING...

I'M IMPRESSED.

SHADOWCAT MUST HAVE
KNOWN WHAT SHE WAS
DOING WHEN SHE CAUGHT
ME IN THE BACKLASH
OF HER SHOT.

MY SENSORS ARE AUTOMATICALLY
ANALYZING EVERY ASPECT OF--

ICON--
ER... LET
WOMAN
GO!

FRIEND OF
YOURS?

NOT THAT I'M
AWARE OF.

UMMM,
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT,
GUYS.

HE'S
WITH
US.

WE
CALL HIM, UM...
JUNGLE
MAN.

THIS IS
GETTING OUT
OF HAND!

YESTERDAY
THERE WAS ONLY
ONE DEFENDER IN
ALL OF
WAKANDA--



THAT DIDN'T
SOUND TOO
STUPID.

--TODAY
THE PLACE IS
CRAWLING WITH SUPER
HEROES!

IT'S EXACTLY
THIS TYPE OF RAPID
EXPANSION THAT I'M
PROTESTING!



"JUNGLE MAN"
NO INTEREST IN POLITICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE.